

Docket No.: R2184.0157/P157-A  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Patent Application of:  
Shinji Yamakawa

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS  
INCLUDING LOW-LINEAR-DENSITY  
DOT REGION DETECTION UNIT,  
AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS  
INCLUDING THE SAME

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**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.**